

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2260, PAIN RELIEF PROMOTION ACT OF 1999

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-409) on the resolution (H. Res. 339) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2260) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL ACT (STRAIGHT A's ACT)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 338 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 338

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2300) to allow a State to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of all its students. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 4 of rule XXI are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instruction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), the ranking member on the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 338 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2300, the Academic Achievement for All Act, also known as Straight A's. The Straight A's Act encourages innovative education reform that will better prepare our Nation's children for the 21st century.

We have made a huge investment in education at the Federal level, yet we are not seeing the positive results each time we add more dollars and resources to Federal education programs. I think we all agree to some degree of failure at the Federal level, or education would not top the list of both parties' legislative agendas. Yet, while we agree that reform is necessary, Congress has a hard time coming together on the one solution that will give a better future to every child.

That may be because there is not one solution. Each school is different and each child is unique, so how can we find the answer, the answer, that will make every school a first-rate institution and help every child reach his or her full potential? The Straight A's bill recognizes that such an individualized task may be beyond the reach of the monolithic, far-removed Federal Government.

This legislation suggests that we look to those who are most familiar with the school systems and who are closer to the students to implement education policies and reforms that will make a real difference. Instead of making schools fit into a mold of a Federal education program, Straight A's lets States and school districts create their own programs and use Federal dollars to make them work.

Straight A's is an option, not a mandate for States. The only requirement is results. Each State that participates must sign a 5-year performance agreement and a rigorous statewide accountability system must be in place to participate. States must report annually to the public and the Secretary of Education as to how they have spent their funds and on student achievement. The bill provides penalties for failure, and it rewards results.

That does not sound so bad, does it? I would even say it is hard to argue against this type of flexibility and change, given the shortcomings of our education system under the status quo. But as my colleagues know, this bill is not without controversy. Whether it is fear of change, a distrust of State government, or healthy skepticism, there are a number of Members who are concerned that the flexibility offered to States through this bill is too broad.

Happily, there has been a compromise, and this rule implements a reasonable middle ground by limiting to 10 the number of States that may part in Straight A's. With adoption of this rule, the Straight A's Act will become a pilot program rather than a nationwide policy.

In addition to this amendment, which is printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules, an amendment to remedy a direct spending issue will be incorporated into the text of the bill when the rule is adopted.

The rule provides for 2 hours of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The House will then have the opportunity to consider two amendments printed in part B of the Committee on Rules report. One is the manager's amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), which will be debatable for 10 minutes. The other is an amendment to be offered by (Mr. FATTAH), which will be debatable for 20 minutes.

Two amendments may not seem very generous, but of the amendments filed with the Committee on Rules, only one amendment was denied. And it was a Republican amendment, which was not germane to the bill. So I think the rule is very fair to the minority and to the Members of this House who sought to amend this legislation.

I should also mention that the rule provides an additional opportunity to change the bill through a motion to recommit with or without instructions. In addition, to give the Chair flexibility and for the convenience of the House, the rule allows the Chair to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question, if preceded by a 15-minute vote.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate that this rule implements a compromise